North Dakota Stratigraphy ROCK **ROCK UNIT** COLUMN QUATERNARY Oahe Coleharboi Unnamed Arikaree Oligocene Brule 38-Chadron Camels Butte TERTIARY Sentinel Butte Bullion Slope Ludlow

Hell Creek

Fox Hills

Pierre

Niobrara

Carlile

CRETACEOUS

Locations where fossils have been found

Squalus

Common Name:

Dogfish shark

Classification:

Class: Chondrichthyes Order: Squaliformes Family: Squalidae



Dogfish shark tooth, *Squalus*. 3 mm wide. Paleocene <u>Cannonball</u> Formation. Bowman County. University of North Dakota Paleontology Collection.

Description:

Squalus is in the group of fish (Chondrichthyes) whose skeletons consist mostly of cartilage rather than bone. Rays and ratfish are also in that group. Squalus, which still exist today, are small sharks that grow to lengths of about 3 feet. They live in both temperate and tropical waters in both shallow and deep depths. Squalus often live in schools and eat primarily bony fish but also other sharks, various invertebrate animals, and even marine mammals. They are know to have scavenged the carcasses of the large Cretaceous marine reptiles, mosasaurs, such as the Plioplatecarpus on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.



Dogfish shark. Painting by, and courtesy of, Richard Ellis.



In the middle right background dogfish sharks, *Squalus*, are scavenging the carcass of a *Plioplatecarpus* mosasaur. Painting by David Miller.

ND State Fossil Collection

Prehistoric Life of ND Map